

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A method for producing a spark plug having at least two electrodes, in which the electrodes each include at least a base part, made of a substrate material of the spark plug, and a surface part, made of a material more durable than the substrate material, comprising the following steps:

forming a blank comprising a surface part and an intermediate part, by joining the surface part to the intermediate part by means of explosion welding,

separating a part with a suitable form from the blank to form the electrode of the spark plug, wherein the part that is separated from the blank includes both a portion of the surface part and a portion of the intermediate part, and

fastening the part separated from the blank to the base part of the spark plug so that a joint is made between the said base part and said portion of the intermediate part.

15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the intermediate part of the blank is planar and the surface part of the blank is planar and consists of at least one metal of the Pt group or an alloy thereof.

16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the surface part of the blank is formed of powder consisting of at least one metal of the Pt group or an alloy thereof, the powder being simultaneously solidified and joined to the intermediate part by means of explosion welding.

17. (currently amended) A method for producing a spark plug having a center electrode and a ground electrode in which the electrodes each include at least a base part, made of a substrate material of the spark plug, and a surface part, made of a material more durable than the substrate material, comprising the following

steps:

forming a composite blank comprising a surface part and an intermediate part, by joining the surface part to the intermediate part by means of explosion welding,

separating a first composite member with a suitable form from the blank to form the ground electrode of the spark plug, wherein the part that is separated from the blank includes both a portion of the surface part and a portion of the intermediate part,

fastening the first composite member to the base part of the ground electrode so that a joint is made between said base part of the ground electrode and said portion of the intermediate part of the first composite member,

providing a second composite member that comprises a second surface part made of a material more durable than the substrate material of the base part of the center electrode and also comprises an intermediate part to which the second surface part is joined by explosion welding, and

fastening the second composite member to the base part of the center electrode so that a joint is made between said base part of the center electrode and the intermediate part of the second composite member and the surface part of the first composite member is in spaced confronting relationship with the surface part of the second composite member.